CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A passenger conveyer system (10) comprising:

a first step (24);

a second step (30) adjacent the first step (24) with a spacing (36) at an interface between the first step (24) and the second step (30); and

a sound transmission reducing member (40, 50) associated with the interface to at least partially obstruct a sound pathway that includes the spacing (36).

2. The conveyer system of claim 1, wherein the sound transmission reducing member (40, 50) is attached to at least one of the steps (24, 30).

3. The conveyer system of claim 1, wherein the sound transmission reducing member (40) is formed as a part of at least one of the steps.

4. The conveyer system of claim 1, including a sound insulating material (46) supported on an underside of each step.

5. The conveyer system of claim 4, wherein the sound insulating material (46) comprises foam.

6. The conveyer system of claim 1, wherein the sound transmission reducing member (40) comprises a lip (43) extending from an end (41) of one of the steps.

7. The conveyer system of claim 6, wherein the lip (43) is integrally formed as part of the step.

8. The conveyer system of claim 1, wherein the sound transmission reducing member (40, 50) comprises a seal (50) supported by one of the steps and having a portion (54) extending across the spacing (36).

9. The conveyer system of claim 8, wherein the seal (50) is a solid material.

10. The conveyer system of claim 1, wherein the seal (50) comprises a brush strip (54") having a portion extending across the spacing (36).

11. The conveyor system of claim 1, wherein the sound transmission reducing member (40, 50) eliminates a direct transmission pathway that includes the spacing (36).

12. A device (40, 50) for reducing sound transmissions through an interface (36) between adjacent steps of a passenger conveyor (10), comprising:

a barrier having a first portion (52) that is adapted to be secured to a step and a second portion (54) adapted to at least partially block sound transmissions through the interface.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein the second portion comprises a brush strip (54").

14. The device of claim 12, wherein the second portion comprises a seal (54').

15. The device of claim 12, wherein the second portion comprises a metallic flange (54').

16. A method of reducing sound in a conveyer system (10) having a plurality of steps (14, 24, 30) with a spacing (36) at an interface between the steps comprising:

supporting a sound transmission reducing member (40, 50) on at least one of the steps to at least partially obstruct a sound pathway through the spacing (36).

17. The method of claim 16, including attaching the sound transmission reducing member (40, 50) to the step.

18. The method of claim 16, including obstructing the spacing (36) with a sound sealing device (54).

19. The method of claim 16, including providing sound absorbing material (46) on a side of the step that faces a sound source.

20. The method of claim 16 including eliminating a direct sound transmission path through the spacing (36).